WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 11TH AUGUST, 1980

Cost Escalation of ONGC Projects.

*341. SHRI SHANTIMOY GHOSH:
DR, R. K. PODDAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS toe pleased to state:

(a) what is the total escalation in the original estimated cost of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission projects;

(b) whether the cost escalation is attributable to inefficiency or to inflation; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OP STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHTLA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) 13 projects have been approved by Government for the ONGC since the beginning of 6th Plan (1980-81). Of these, two projects at an estimated total cost of Rs. 165.7 crores have been completed at a cost of approximately Rs. 144 crores. Of the remaining 11 continuing projects, revision in cost estimates has been necessitated only in the following two projects-.

(i) *The* Accelerated Plan of Production *including SHNQ complex (APP): The* project was approved at a cost of Rs. 2960.36 crores and its revised

The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Monday, the 11th August, 1986 was adjourned on account of the death of General A. S. Vaidya. Answers to Questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House* on Tuesday, the 12th August,

cost fe Ra 2961,62 crores. The object was to produce 63.14 million tonneg of oil during the 6th Plan period against which actual production du-ing the period has been 63.365 million tonnes. The revision in cost estimates is mainly die to change in scope of the project on account of reservoir behaviour.

(ii) *South Bassein. Project;* The pro ject was aproved at a cost of Rs 406.33 crores (including Custom Duty); the revised cost estimates is Rs. 593.14 crores. The revision in cost estimates is mainly due to change in scope necessitated by the discovery of the presence of hydrogen sulphide in the gas fields.

Abolition of mail sorting in RMS

•342. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that abolition of mail sorting in RMs coaches has resulted in delays in the mail delivery; and

(b) if so, whether any modification in the system is under the Government's consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Abolition of sorting of mails in RMS vans has not resulted in any delay to mails, except in marginal cases for which remedial action is taken as and when noticed.

(b) No, Sir, With abolition of sorting in RMS vans more accommodation has become available for closed forward bags and their movement has consequently been speeded up. The measure has also resulted in simplification of sorting.